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7. [] Lunchd with Senator Symington whom I briefed in detail on our several meetings with Senator Baker over the past couple of weeks in connection with his speculations regarding Agency involvement in Watergate. The Senator seemed to accept and support the Agency's firm denials of such involvement and asked that we keep him fully up-to-date.

In the course of our conversation he confided that Senator Stennis' recovery was distressingly slow.

Recalling the abortive attempt in 1970 to organize under FBI Director Hoover a Domestic Intelligence Organization, Symington remarked that the Agency was very fortunate that this effort never got off the ground and that the lesson to be drawn was that henceforth, if the Agency was ever asked to do anything that appeared improper we should insist that the request be put in writing.

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8. [] Met with Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, and reviewed the problem of getting tighter espionage laws to protect sensitive intelligence information. Braswell noted that consideration of such a bill would raise a jurisdictional question but he agreed that if it were presented in the form of an amendment to the Agency Act, and was addressed specifically to the protection of "intelligence sources and methods" the Armed Services Committee should be in a position to assert primary jurisdiction.

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9. [] Paul Haygood, Administrative Assistant to Senator Bennett Johnston (D., La.), called and said that the Senator would be traveling to several countries in the Middle East during the Christmas recess. Haygood was interested in finding out for the Senator whether there was any personal risk involved in this area at this time. He recalled that prior to another Middle East trip which had to be canceled the Senator had been advised by our people about security in the area.

After checking with [] returned Mr. Haygood's 25X1A call and told him that the Peace Conference this weekend will probably be a critical period and the situation could tip in either direction. We suggested that the Senator wait until the middle of next week and check with us at which time we will be in a better position to advise him. Haygood said the Senator will be going to North Carolina on 26 December but that the Senator or he (Haygood) will call [] Wednesday, 26 December. 25X1A

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